

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

EDITORS' CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, MAY 2, 1853.

Having spent most of the day in walking and riding about the city, and that overgrown suburb, Brooklyn, I feel like having a little familiar chat this evening with my old friends, the readers of the *Intelligencer*.

The annual May-day "plague" has passed over the city rather more lightly this year, I think, than usual. Every body did not move, partly perhaps because every body could not find houses to go into; for, notwithstanding the vigorous growth of houses, new blocks and new streets springing up in every direction almost in a night, they do not keep pace with the growth of population. Rents have advanced, and many, who might otherwise have followed the old custom of moving, have felt that they must hold on to the tenement they occupied, or be left homeless. Another circumstance mitigated a little the severity of the crisis, and that was the fact that May-day came on the Sabbath, and the moving was thus divided considerably between Saturday and Monday, and the agony of a single day was not piled so high. Still there has been enough of toil and sweat, and trouble, and anxiety, and hurry, and bustle, and dust, and fretting, and bawling, and sprawling, and splashing, and smashing, and broken furniture, and aching hearts, to overwhelm and sink a city of moderate dimensions. This abominable custom of May-day moving would certainly be more honored in the breach than in the observance. But it probably enables owners to keep rents at a higher mark than they would otherwise obtain, and, as they have the staff in their own hands, there seems to be no prospect of a speedy change.

Two new ferries have just commenced running between New York and Brooklyn: one from Wall street to Montague street, in Brooklyn, being about half-way between the Fulton ferry and the South ferry; and the other from Rosevelt street to Bridge street, being about half-way between the Fulton ferry and Katherine ferry. Rosevelt street leads from the ferry directly up to Chatham square, and of course into the heart of the city, as it is but a short distance from Chatham square to the Park and City Hall. And the Wall street ferry, as every body knows from the name, leads directly to the money heart of the city. There has been quite a struggle for several years to obtain the establishment of the Wall street ferry. The money-kings frowned at the idea of having the royal domains, his golden thoroughfare, invaded by ferry boats and omnibus lines. But the revolutionary democracy of the age was too powerful even for the money-kings. The ferry is established, three fine steamers are on the line, and omnibuses rattle through Wall street, making bankers and brokers dash and run very much as they do poor women and children in Broadway.

There are now six ferries between New York and Brooklyn, employing about twenty steamboats. What a contrast compared with the old horse-boats of fifty years ago, when a single scow with one-horse power transported fifty people a day, and on extraordinary occasions perhaps a hundred, between New York and Long Island. Now some twenty powerful steamers, with large and elegant cabins, fitted up with cushioned seats and stained-glass doors and windows, may count their passengers at thirty or forty thousand a day, or fifteen to twenty thousand each way. The new boats and ferry houses of the Wall street ferry are very commodiously arranged and fitted up, and indeed in this respect the New York and Brooklyn ferries collectively are probably not surpassed by any ferries in the world.

When one witnesses the daily crowds in Broadway and fifty other thronged localities and channels of movement in the city, he is prone to wonder where they can all come from, and is ready to exclaim with the good old lady under similar circumstances, "there must be a meeting somewhere." But his wonder will somewhat subside if he will count up the lines of ferries, steamboats, and railroads which daily pour their rushing tides of human life into the great metropolis. Let him look first at the short steam ferries connected with the city, beginning on the East river, and going round to the Hudson. First, there is the ferry, below Hart-gate, to the fine village of Astoria. Then the Williamsburg ferries, two lines well fitted up, with not less than three boats each. Another is about to be established at the north of Williamsburg, at Green Point. Then comes Brooklyn, with her six distinct ferries; then Staten Island, with two lines of boats; and Jersey city ferry, the thoroughfare of the great masses of Southern travel; and Hoboken with its numerous boats plying to three different points in New York. Then think of the great number of boats which run upon what may be called the long ferries, to Flushing, New Rochelle, Fort Hamilton and Coney Island, Long Branch, Fort Lee, and many other places. Then count up some half-dozen large and elegant steamers daily running on Long Island Sound, and a still larger number of passenger boats on the Hudson, to say nothing of the almost countless number of freight boats. And he must not omit the ocean steamers, Atlantic and Southern, which now average about one a day. And then the railroads, the Long Island, the New Haven and Boston, the Harlem and Albany, the Hudson River, the New York and Erie, the Patterson, and the great Southern lines via Philadelphia. Let him think of all this, and he will not be surprised that fifty thousand people are daily whirled into New York and daily whirled out again. He will no longer be at a loss to account for the throngs and jams, the crowding and elbowing, which he meets on every side, or for the blockade of Broadway and other streets by struggling carts, omnibuses, carriages, and other vehicles of all descriptions. Broadway often gets choked, and a promiscuous jam of carriages sometimes for a mile in extent is brought to a dead stand, while all the cross streets are vainly endeavoring to charge and break through the line. There seems to be no remedy for this but to widen other streets and open new thoroughfares, and what is most likely to be the case, a general resort to railroads. The railroads already in operation in the Sixth and Eighth avenues have demonstrated their practicability and utility for city purposes, and probably the rails are destined to be laid in Broadway and other principal thoroughfares. Indeed the strong opposition which has been made to a railroad in Broadway probably has not been so much against the road itself as against the supposed corruption of the City Council and their gross disregard of the public interest.

The present growth of the city and suburbs, with the accompanying increase of business of all kinds, is almost bewildering; and it is expected to receive an impulse the coming season more marked and stronger than ever before. The Crystal Palace is prominent among the exciting causes of this new impulse. The world is coming to see us, and all Gotham is aroused and stirring its stumps. All are brushing round and preparing for an unusual time, some to make money, and some to make a show. The grand Hippodrome, which has just been opened on the aristocratic Fifth avenue, will be one of the marked features of the season. I took a Sixth avenue car to-day and went up to the Crystal Palace, and intended when I sat down to say something about it in this letter, but I find I have already covered my paper. There is time enough yet, however, for the present appearance of the picturesque building it will take at least a month longer to complete it. Many vessels are now bringing articles from foreign countries for exhibition at the Great Fair. One arrived yesterday with numerous articles sent by the Emperor of Italy, consisting of natural and artificial products of the island. Several vessels have already brought large contributions from Europe. The neighborhood for half a mile round the Crystal Palace looks like a new city just sprung up out of the ground, half built, covered with dust and new paint. The numerous hotels, restaurants, saloons, drinking shops, and chandeliers look as though they attempt to enforce the Maine law there this season would be a decided failure.

CLARK MILLS, Esq.—A buffalo, elk, and two wild horses arrived on the freight train at Pittsburg, on Friday night, for the celebrated sculptor, Clark Mills, Esq. They are intended to serve as models for a sculptural design.

THE METEOR OF SATURDAY NIGHT.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Messrs. Editors: The writer of this was fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the great meteor of Saturday night, though he did not recover from the surprise produced by the sudden blaze of light around him till the meteor had nearly run its course, when on looking up the bright train was seen, and mostly concealed by a building near which he was standing. This, allowing two minutes lost in fixing the position of the train and in getting to a light to look at my watch, was at twenty minutes past ten. The southern portion or beginning of the train was all that could be observed particularly, and that passed about 1° 30' west of the star Betelgeuse. Struck with the brightness of the train and the curvature it began almost immediately to assume, I continued to watch its motions. It took an easterly course, inclining to the north, but with unequal velocity, until in a few minutes it formed the angle mentioned in this morning's *Intelligencer*, and then passed gradually into a more diffused light in the region of the angle, the latter becoming obliterated. This continued visible for about seventeen minutes past 10, during which time it was moved over a space of about twenty-three degrees of arc in the direction above named, or on a line a few degrees south of a line drawn to the star Lyra.

The notice in this morning's *Intelligencer* states that "there was no explosion nor any audible noise during its flight." While watching the motion of the train my attention was arrested (10h. 25min.) by a slight report, which might be compared with the barely audible explosion of a distant rocket. There is no question as to the occurrence of the sound, but whether it came from the meteor or from some object in the streets may remain a question, unless my observation should be confirmed by others. The interval of five minutes between the appearance of the meteor and the sound would indicate a distance of sixty-odd miles to the point where the explosion took place, which is in accordance with the great height at which meteors are known generally to make their appearance.

It is an interesting question whether the observed motion of the luminous train was due to a rapid easterly course, or to the upper regions of the atmosphere, or to the matter of which the train is composed falling towards the earth, or to both causes combined. This question need not remain a subject of speculation merely, if corresponding observations of the motions of the luminous matter could be procured from several stations at distances of some forty or fifty miles from each other. The real path described by it through the atmosphere would then become a subject of actual calculation, and might throw some light upon the nature of the luminous matter, according as its motions were found to be more or less controlled by the currents of the rare upper atmosphere, or by the resistance of the air. The latter would be a considerable degree by the former, it would also give us information of the velocity and direction of the currents in a region of the atmosphere inaccessible by any other known means. It is to be hoped, therefore, that some distant observers may be availed themselves of this rare opportunity for a class of observations which will yield results so instructive, and that in due time such observations may be communicated to the Smithsonian Institution.

WASHINGTON, MAY 3, 1853.

O. O. A.

THE COMET OF 1856.

The following interesting details respecting the comet which is expected to make its appearance about the year 1856 are given by M. RABINET, an eminent French astronomer, and member of the Academy of Sciences, in an article recently published. The Boston Traveller translates from the *Courier des Etats Unis*:

This Comet is one of the grandest of which historians make mention. It is the period of its revolution about three hundred years. It was seen in the years 104, 392, 689, 176, 1204, and the last time in 1556. Astronomers agreed in predicting its return in 1848, but it failed to appear—*aqueo aurescens*, according to the expression of M. Rabinet—and continues to this day, unseen by us. Already the observers had begun to be alarmed for the fate of their beautiful wandering star. Sir John Herschel himself had put a craze upon his telescope, when a learned calculator of Middleburg, M. Bonne, re-assured the astronomical world of the continued existence of the venerable and magnificent comet.

"Disquieted," as all other astronomers were, by the non-appearance of the comet at the expected time, M. Bonne, aided by the preparatory labors of Mr. Hind, with a patience truly Dutch, has revised all the calculations and estimated all the actions of all the planets upon the comet for three hundred years of its revolution. He has found that the patient labor gives the arrival of the comet in August, 1858, with an uncertainty of two years, more or less, so that, from 1856 to 1860, we may expect the great comet which was the cause of the abdication of the Emperor Charles V. in 1556.

"It is known that, partaking of the general superstition which interpreted the appearance of a comet as the forerunner of some fatal event, Charles V. believed that this comet addressed its menacing particularly to him as holding the first rank among sovereigns. The great and once more now wearied and almost blind monarch had been for some time the victim of cruel reverses. There were threatening indications in the political if not in the physical horizon of a still greater misfortune to come. He was left to cry in despair, 'For my sins, the comet will appear, and the blessing star seemed to him an admonition from heaven that he must cease to be a sovereign if he would avoid a fatality from which one without authority might be spared. It is known that the Emperor survived his abdication but a little more than two years."

"Another comet, which appeared in 1855, and which has appeared twenty-five times since the year 12 before christian era, has been associated by the superstitions with many important events which have occurred near the periods of its visitation.

"In 1066 William the Conqueror landed in England at the head of a numerous army; about the same time the comet appeared which now bears the name of Halley's comet. The circumstance was regarded by the English as a prognostic of the victory of the Normans. It infused into a terror into the minds of the people, and contributed not a little towards the submission of the country after the battle of Hastings, as it had served to discourage the soldiers of Harold before the combat. The comet is represented upon the famous tapestry of Bayeux, executed by Queen Matilda, the wife of the Conqueror."

"The same comet, in 1456, threw terror among the Turks under the command of Mahomet II. and into the Christians during the terrible battles of Belgrade, in which forty thousand Mussulmans perished. The comet is described by historians of the time as 'immense, terrible, of enormous length, carrying in its train a tail which covered two celestial signs, (90 degrees), and producing universal terror.' Judging from this position, the comet has singularly degenerated in our day. It will be remembered, however, that in 1811 there appeared a comet of great brilliancy, which inspired some superstitious fears. Since that epoch science has noted nearly eighty comets, which, with few exceptions, were visible only by the aid of the telescope. Kepler, when asked how many comets he thought there were in the heavens, answered, 'as many as there are fish in the sea.'"

"Thanks to the progress of astronomical science, these singular stars are no longer objects of terror. The theories of Newton, Laplace, and their successors, have completely destroyed the imaginary terrors of comets. They are no longer regarded as the agents of divine retribution, but as mere physical nature, it was for a long time believed that they were composed of a compact centre, surrounded by a luminous atmosphere. On this subject the opinion of M. Rabinet, who must be regarded as good authority on all questions of astronomy, is that comets do not exert any material influence upon our globe; and the earth, should it traverse a comet in its entire breadth, would perceive it no more than if it should cross a cloud a hundred thousand millions of times lighter than our atmosphere, and which could no more make its way through our air than the slightest puff of an ordinary bellows could make its way through an anvil." It would be difficult to find a comparison more re-assuring.

"This celebrated spectacle is presented in the ancient Egyptian book of Ebers. It represents the principal incidents, including the appearance of the comet, in the history of the conquest of England, by William, Duke of Normandy. It is supposed to have been painted by Matthew, the contemporary of Henry II. and King Stephen. It is a work of Henry I. It consists of a linen web, 214 feet in length and 20 inches wide, and is divided into 72 compartments, each having an inscription indicating its subject. The figures are all executed by the needle.

ACCIDENT TO PROFESSOR LIEBIG.—The Augsburg Gazette has the following from Munich, dated the 10th: "Professor LIEBIG was last night giving a lecture on chemistry at the Palace, before Queen Maria, Queen Theresa, King Louis, the younger branches of the royal family, and some persons belonging to the Court, when a bottle of oxygen gas, which was being improperly handled to him by his assistant, who took it for another bottle, an explosion took place, and the bottle flew into a thousand pieces. Fortunately, the explosion occurred in an inner room, the door of which was open; still some fragments of the glass passed through the door and slightly wounded some members of the royal party who were sitting in the front rank. Queen Theresa was cut in the cheek, and the blood flowed in abundance. Countess Luxburg in the chin, and Countess Sandilich in the head. None of these wounds will be of any consequence. The Professor was also slightly injured, having escaped with his life by a sort of miracle."

A correspondent of the Richmond Enquirer says that the cholera is prevailing in Gloucester, Mecklenburg, and on some of the plantations on the Roanoke river.

WASHINGTON.

Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1853.

Since we have, in duty to our readers, deemed it right to copy lately several articles from sources friendly to the President, calculated to inspire some distrust of the pacific intentions of the new Administration, we consider it due to it to copy from the *Union* of yesterday portions of an article containing a satisfactory disavowal of the belligerent views imputed to the Administration by the writers referred to. We think it due to the *Union*, too, to give it the benefit of its very just remarks, in accounting for misapprehensions into which the public is prone to be led on the accession of a new Administration.

FROM THE UNION.

That the journals of this country should occasionally run into extravagances of folly and error in discussing the policy of Government is the inevitable result of its license in political speculation, and of their anxiety to stimulate the palpitating appetite of the public by exaggerated stories of exciting interest. At a period like the present, when the policy of a new Administration is still undeveloped, the least significant of its acts is severely scrutinized, its hidden purposes boldly explored, and the most rash and ridiculous conclusions drawn from inadequate or fictitious premises. Rumors originate in we know not what authority; impressions are made by we know not what influence; and the public mind is lashed by unseen hands into a feverish condition of excitement and anxiety. The frank and manly avowal of purposes and policy which the President made in his inaugural address to the nation has partially failed to produce its legitimate effect upon the popular mind, in consequence only of the rash speculations and extravagant stories of a portion of the public press. In his inaugural address President Pierce gave the country every assurance of a permanent peace, in indicating a foreign policy based upon the highest principles of national honor and public faith. The almost universal applause of the country indicated its satisfaction. Nothing in the conduct of the Administration conflicts with the declared policy of the President. Nothing has occurred to disturb that feeling of security and satisfaction which pervaded the nation. But it seems that an anxiety in respect to the foreign relations of the country is felt in certain quarters. A correspondent of the Baltimore Sun discourses in the following strain.

[The *Union* here inserts the letter of Ion, which we copied yesterday, and proceeds:]

By such wild speculation as this is the public mind kept in a fever of excitement and anxiety. It would be as vain as it is unnecessary to attempt to allay an apprehension so utterly unwarrantable as that to which the correspondent of the Sun refers.

We take all this in good faith; and although, as the *Union* says, "the policy of the new Administration is still undeveloped," we will not doubt that its aims are those of peace. The President is a reader, and may have been impressed with the truth of that fine lesson for Potentates and Presidents—"Peace greatness best becomes. Calm power doth guide With far more imperious stateliness Than all the words of violence can do; And easier gains those ends she tends unto."

The Whigs of Wilmington, Delaware, gallantly carried that city at the municipal election on Tuesday last. JOHN A. ALDERIDGE, Whig, was elected Mayor by a majority of one hundred and fifty votes; the Whig candidates for Aldermen and Treasurer were elected by handsome majorities and a majority of the city Councilmen are also Whigs.

The Delaware Constitutional Convention has finished up its business and adjourned. A special election is to be held on the second Tuesday in October next, to ratify or reject the Constitution as amended.

The Legislature of RHODE ISLAND met at Newport on Tuesday, for the organization of the Government and the election of State officers for the ensuing political year. All branches of the Government will be Democratic. An election of Senator in the Congress of the United States is to be had. A project for calling a Convention to make a new Constitution is one of the projects of "reform" determined on by the now dominant party.

The *Union* states that the rumor that the President "will, in the course of a few days, pay a visit to New Hampshire," has no foundation in truth; and that it is authorized to announce that he does not expect to leave Washington during the approaching summer.

A Washington letter in the New York Courier says:

"The Attorney General has recently had before him a question of some importance to the navy. Commodore Morris, Shubrick, and Skinner, and Commander Dupont, were constituted a board or commission to revise the rules and regulations of the navy. They reported a code containing some new things, and dispensing with some others not new, which excited complaint on the part of many officers. It is stated that this code was signed by the President and Secretary of the Navy, in the last hours of the late Administration, without being maturely considered, and was promulgated to some of the squadrons in service on the 31st March. The new Secretary of the Navy suspended its operation, and referred the question of its legality to the Attorney General. That functionary has given an opinion against it, and the new code will therefore be suppressed. The rules and regulations will remain as before."

A NEW ROAD.

We are glad to learn that the efforts of A. B. DAVIS, Esq., President of the Union Plank or Turnpike Road Company, (whose road is to extend from the terminus of the 7th street plank road to the flourishing neighborhood of Brookville, Montgomery county, Maryland), has been met with a promptitude and liberality worthy of the metropolis of the nation. If his efforts to-day and to-morrow meet with any thing like the success of yesterday and the day before, the whole amount of stock needed will be subscribed, and the work put immediately under contract and pushed forward to early completion.

The Hon. R. H. STANTON, in a note correcting a statement of a New York paper, says that he is a candidate for re-election to Congress, and more anxious to serve the people of Kentucky as their Representative than to occupy any place that the President can give him.

Amongst the recent arrivals at Willard's Hotel are the following: Major General WOOL, U. S. A.; Colonel J. P. TAYLOR, U. S. A.; Colonel DUBOIS, U. S. A.; Colonel MAY, U. S. A.; Colonel TALMADGE, U. S. A.; Governor WILLIAM BIGLER, Pennsylvania; DUPRE MARY, Esq., from Paris; JOSEPH R. CROSKY, United States Consul to Southampton.

NORTH MISSOURI AND IRON MOUNTAIN RAILROADS.—The citizens of St. Louis county voted almost unanimously on the 25th ultimo in favor of a subscription of \$500,000 to the North Missouri and Iron Mountain Railroads, \$500,000 of which is to be appropriated to the construction of the former, and the remaining \$400,000 to the construction of the latter road. Two propositions were submitted to the people as to the manner in which the subscription should be raised, viz. by the issue of county bonds, payable at a remote day, or by an assessment of thirty per cent. of the proposed loan each year upon the taxable property within the county. A considerable majority voted in favor of the method of payment by bonds.

TO THE EDITORS.

The delicate reserve which you have generally exhibited in regard to subjects pending before a judicial tribunal has often been the subject of remark and commendation. The article in your tri-weekly of the 26th April, in reference to the validity of the laws of South Carolina authorizing the imprisonment of colored seamen, seems to be rather a flagrant departure from your accustomed propriety. You not only take it for granted that the law is valid, but undertake to argue the question which is pending in the District Court. Nor does your argument seem to possess its usual clearness and strength. There appears to me a great fallacy in assuming that free negroes are citizens of the United States, and entitled to the protection of the second section of the fourth article of the Constitution. I had supposed that it was now universally admitted that free negroes were not citizens of the United States, and cannot be. That question I shall pass by for the present, and assume that they are not. If not citizens of the United States, they cannot be, in a proper sense, citizens of any State. The United States alone have the right to admit citizens; and, whatever privileges and rights any State may vouchsafe to free negroes, it cannot make them citizens, and consequently the Constitution cannot afford the right of South Carolina to deal with free colored persons coming into her territory in such way as she may think necessary or expedient. But as it regards the citizens or subjects of a foreign nation the question is a very different one. Every independent nation may choose with whom it will have intercourse, and if it thinks the admission of the citizens or subjects of any nation into its territory dangerous to its peace or safety, it may refuse to trade with them, and may shut its ports against them. The United States might do this, but South Carolina cannot. She is not independent in that sense. If the Emperor of Morocco or the King of Madagascar should send a ship into the port of Charleston, or it should be driven there by stress of weather, could the authorities have any greater right to imprison the black captain or mariners than they would have to imprison the white subjects of Queen Victoria in the like circumstances, and more especially if the United States had a treaty of amity and commerce with those kingdoms? And suppose the United States should recognize the independence of Liberia and form such treaty with her, or without such treaty, and one of her vessels, manned by her own citizens, should visit Charleston, would not the supercargo or captain have the same right to transact business there as any white subject of Queen Victoria, or of the Emperor Nicholas, or of Napoleon III? Whom the United States choose to admit, South Carolina cannot exclude or rightfully molest.

It is never unpleasant to receive fair comments, even if unfavorable, upon any views we may express; and, if the matter be of sufficient interest, we seldom refuse our readers the benefit of the excellent caution, *aud alteram partem*. With this view we insert above the criticisms of a correspondent upon some brief words of ours a few days ago, regarding a case just then about to be decided in the District Court at Charleston, in reference to the imprisonment of foreign colored seamen under a statute of South Carolina.

We cannot, however, submit the remarks of "E." without excepting to his accusation of a "departure from our accustomed propriety" by an argument upon a question at issue before the proper tribunal. We did not propose then, nor do we now, to discuss this question, though we have sufficient materials at hand to enable us to do so. We simply expressed our opinion upon a point of international and constitutional law, upon which nearly every journal in the Union has had occasion to speak during the long time it has been controverted, or at least not decisively settled. The facts in the several cases which have occurred from an infringement of the State law, as in this last case, have been agreed upon. The principles involved are well known; the legal authorities and judicial precedents bearing upon the question have often been cited, and certainly are familiar to all engaged in the trial, and even to those who may have lent but a general attention to the controversy. We do not perceive, therefore, that our remarks violated any propriety.

We cannot see, either, that the suggestions of "E." affect the force of what we said, as his suppositions would be no stronger than that lately before the Federal Court at Charleston, and would not, in our opinion, have the effect to divest any State of the right of self-defence and preservation—which was distinctly the ground upon which we upheld the law of South Carolina, while we admitted its stringency and questionable expediency.

We may mention that our views in regard to the legality of the enactment have been sustained by the United States Court at Charleston, and that the case is to be carried up to the Supreme Court. The question involved, the high character of the counsel engaged, as well as the eminence of the parties who are practically interested in the result, will combine to render the case one of unusual interest and importance.

The "Union" states that the Board of Commissioners having in charge the subject of the Military Asylum, which is composed of Major General SCOTT, General JESSE, General WOOL, General TWIGGS, General GIBSON, General LAWSON, General ADJUTANT GENERAL, are to meet in this city to-day, to take into consideration matters relating to the Asylum already established, and probably the location of a third in some one of the Western States. Generals WOOL and TWIGGS arrived on Tuesday, and General SCOTT was expected last evening.

A TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR PRIZE.—Among the items of news from California is the announcement of the fact that Mr. HENRY FITCH, of San Francisco, had offered a prize of ten thousand dollars for the best treatise on the Pacific and Atlantic Railway. The work is to be written in simple and lucid style, and to embrace the most thorough and exact treatment of the following topics:

1. The Great Atlantic and Pacific Railway, and its immediate and prospective benefits to the whole American Union, including impartial comparisons of the routes already proposed, the means and plans upon which they are proposed to be constructed, together with an exact estimate of its probable cost, and a recommendation of the most feasible and easy way to insure its completion within the shortest possible time; the exposition of its benefits to the Union, socially, politically, and financially, to be exhaustive of this part of the subject.
2. The *Future Trade of the Pacific and East India*. [Under this head a list of very comprehensive requirements are given, extending to all the islands and possessions, resources, population, whale fishery, seal trade, &c.]
3. *Health of California*. [Particular directions are also given on this head.]

Manuscript of the work to be forwarded prior to November 1st, 1853, to S. P. Andrews, New York City. Merits of the presented works and choice to be determined by a committee, who will meet at Washington on the 15th of November next.

A whole premium to be awarded for a complete work on the three topics named, treated under distinct and separate heads. For the first alone \$5,000; for the second and third, \$2,500 each. All communications relative to the subject to be directed to R. K. Brown, editor, San Francisco Evening Journal, in whose hands a bond for twice the amount of the premium has been placed. The authors of the day are invited to compete, without distinction of nationality.

SHEEP.—There have just landed from the steamship *Thetis* one hundred and eleven sheep, of the improved Merino stock, remarkable for their large size and weight of fleece. They were imported by Solomon W. Jewett, of Middlebury, (Vt.) who purchased them in the interior of France.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce*.

PRESENTATION OF SWISS BLOCK OF GRANITE.

The ceremony of the presentation of a beautiful block of granite from the Swiss Alps, north of Lake Geneva, which took place on Tuesday, the 5th ultimo, was in a high degree imposing and interesting. Our Swiss fellow-citizens now in Washington, assembled to honor the occasion, and accompanied the block, which was drawn on a truck by six horses, escorted by the fine company of Yagers, with a band of music, commanded by Capt. Schwarzmair, to the City Hall. An appropriate address was delivered from the portico of the western wing of the City Hall by Mr. L'HUISSIER in behalf of the Swiss Confederation, by which it was presented to the Board of Managers, to be placed in the magnificent structure now being erected here in honor of the Father of his Country; and this was responded to very eloquently by WALTER LEON, Esq., of the part of the Board, whose members had assembled to receive it, and did so with feelings of deep interest. These addresses are given below.

This was the first testimonial of respect and veneration to the noble and exalted character of Washington which had been received from a foreign country, and it was particularly gratifying to know that it was the voluntary offering of the only free Confederacy in Europe at the shrine of American patriotism and virtue. Coming as it does from the glorious country of the patriot Tell, the ancient Helvetia, and from the granite rocks of the magnificent Alps, it may easily be imagined that it produced here presented a feeling of enthusiasm which could scarcely be suppressed. Future generations will experience this enthusiasm when they contemplate these beautiful memorials of respect and admiration from distant lands to the imperishable memory of the illustrious founder of American liberty.

After the interesting ceremonies of presentation were concluded, the block was conveyed to the Monument grounds, escorted by the Swiss committee, the Yagers, and members of the Board of Managers.

The block is a beautiful and unique specimen of Alpine granite, about four feet square, highly polished, and has the following simple and appropriate inscription in raised characters, gilded: "TO THE MEMORY OF WASHINGTON, FROM THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, 1852."

Address of Mr. Hüller.

GENTLEMEN: The Government of the Swiss Republic having learned that the citizens of the United States were erecting a monument to the memory of the Father of this Country, the illustrious Washington, have thought that no better opportunity could be found to show the high respect and admiration which they bear for a hero as distinguished by his genius as a general and a statesman, as by the integrity of his life and the purity of his character.

The Government of Switzerland beg you, gentlemen, to receive this block of granite, to be placed in the monument being now erected in memory of Washington, the man of all men whose lives are recorded in the annals of history the most deserving our homage and respect, the only general and statesman who was never accused by friends or enemies of a selfish ambition or of promoting his personal interest. Others have been sincerely devoted to the cause of their country, and may in lower spheres have exhibited as great virtues, but none having in their hands so much power have neglected or forgotten to use it to promote their personal interest. The life of Washington may serve as a model as well to the statesman in whose hands are deposited the honor and the welfare of a nation, and to whom are conferred the most exalted worldly dignities, as to the citizen living in a humble sphere. May the private and public citizens of this immense republic follow forever his footsteps! Their country stands already in many respects on an even footing with the greatest of the European nations, and in many is superior; may it become the greatest and the most flourishing, and give to all the nations of the earth the example of all the virtues, of love for human and divine law, as did the one to whose memory they are now erecting a monument!

Reply of Mr. Leon.

Sir: In behalf of the Washington Monument Society permit me to respond to the interesting address with which you have accompanied the delivery of this noble gift. It has been the pleasing duty of our Society to receive from the Government of this Union, from municipal bodies and other associations of our country, memorials of a similar character, and they now form cherished portions of our ascending pile. In the presentation of these numerous tokens, and in the erection of the monument itself by the American people, we recognize an expression of public pride, the performance of a sacred duty, the acknowledgment of a nation's gratitude to the chief founder of those institutions which have secured to the blessings of liberty, civil and religious. This motive of action belongs to noble sentiments and is worthy of a man of high character, but that, sir, which prompts the offering of to-day is even more disinterested in its character, and therefore the more honorable to the memory of our Washington. We know that it is not the fulfillment of the obligations of national gratitude, that is the object of public pride or exultation, but that it springs from an admiration of the achievements of genius, reckless of the evils which it inflicts; but we feel that it is a just acknowledgment by a disinterested tribunal of the value of those great services which have endeavored to the cause of the human race, and the cause of our country, which is a tribute to an excellence of more worth which almost realizes our highest conceptions of human greatness; we feel that it is akin to the willing homage paid to some great conception of the human mind, which, overlooking the limits of language and place, becomes the property of all men, and the blessing of all mankind.

But there are other sympathies and associations which deeply enhance the interest of this occasion. We cannot repress the animating thought that this testimonial is the gift of a sister Republic, whose struggles in freedom's cause have been signalled by such heroic deeds that the truth of history seems almost blended with the romance of fiction.

We cannot forget that she the footprints of civilization marked the shores of our own land, and the exiled sons of liberty had reared its altars here, Switzerland was the native ground and the sanctuary of freedom, and the free Confederacy, springing into life in congenial spirit with its mountain solitudes and secluded valleys, has amidst the corruptions and devastations of modern times, ever struggled to maintain itself, with a spirit as defiant and immortal as its mountains, from which this testimonial has been taken; and, above all, that, enlarged in its limits by voluntary association induced by mutual interests and sympathies, it now presents the purest model of republican government in the Old World.

I feel, sir, that in the presence of such considerations and sympathies, do not repress the interest of this testimonial in declaring that it is one of patriotic pride to the people of both countries and of moral grandeur before the world.

We shall place this stone side by side with those from our own countrymen, and as each citizen of the Republic, from the rock of Plymouth to the shores of the Pacific, shall visit this monument of national gratitude, he will first ask, with exulting pride and grateful heart, to look upon this consecrated token of the involuntary homage of a people far distant, but of kindred sympathies; and let me assure you that from the heart of the American people will come the assurance that this pure offering and simple ceremony may become a covenant of mutual respect, good faith, and friendly feeling, stronger and more lasting than the artificial bonds which the exigencies and interests of the hour may create. To you, sir, for the deep interest which have evinced, and to our friends who have honored themselves and their native land by their presence on this occasion, the Society offers its most grateful acknowledgments.

FLORIDA, INDIANS.—The Florida Mirror of the 22d ultimo says: "We came through in the stage with Col. WINDER, of the U. S. Army, commander of Fort Myer. He says the delegation which went on to Washington last most of their presents at Fort Myer on their return, and have since declined receiving them, as they have failed to comply with their promise of emigration. He says also, by a careful estimate made by John Jumper, one of the Western delegates, that there are only 286 Indians remaining in Florida, and only eighty-five of these men and boys able to bear arms. We understand that it is the determination of the Government to remove the Indians surveyed into townships, which will facilitate the search for the Indians wherever the attempt is made to hunt out. We incline to the opinion that if the people on the frontier can be patient, we who are less exposed might wait to take counsel on the best time and method for the removal."

Gen. CHILES, commanding at Tampa, informed the citizens at the court-house that the Indians were again coming in at Fort Myer, and though unwilling to emigrate professed a desire to remain at present. Assinaw, a sub-chief, was in at the post and said Billy Bowlegs had not been disposed."

Charles Lee has recovered a verdict in the Circuit Court at Morrisville, Madison county, (N. Y.) of \$4,000 against the Blockade and Syracuse Railroad Company for personal injuries caused by an accident on the railroad in October last. It is said that the company offered to settle the claim before trial by the payment of six thousand dollars, but the plaintiff refused to accept that amount.

INEQUALITY OF FORTUNES.

"Some modern philosophic theorists propose to remedy the inequality of fortunes which exists by a new organization of society; but we think that it would be just as practicable to establish a perfect uniformity of mind. Indeed, the latter would seem to be essential to the former; for so long as one man has an intellectual superiority over another so long will inequality of fortune exist. In this country man is free to pursue the promptings of his own mind, and to garner up the products of his own industry. We have no laws of primogeniture to continue estates in families from generation to generation, and hence the rich of to-day may be the poor of to-morrow. Indeed, it is something uncommon to see large estates remain in the same families for more than one generation.

But it is objected that some men accumulate large fortunes whilst others have to depend upon their daily labor for support; and this is complained of as a grievance which should be remedied by a new organization of society. Suppose that an equal